

USS Chung-Hoon heads to western Pacific

MC2 Dustin W. Sisco

Navy Public Affairs
Support Element West,
Detachment Hawaii

The guided-missile destroyer USS Chung-Hoon (DDG 93) departed Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam on April 2 for an independent deployment to the Indo-Asia-Pacific region.

The ship's departure, originally planned for Feb. 28, was deferred to better refine sequestration planning and execution.

Commanded by Cmdr. Justin Orlich, the ship and its crew of nearly 280 Sailors will conduct integrated operations in conjunction with allies and partners.

"The crew's really excited to go out," Orlich said. "We've been on hold for a little over a month now while we fought through the battles of sequestration, but now that we're approved and ordered to deploy, we're ready to go. "It's a great feeling knowing we're ready to go out and do the good



U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Diana Quinlan

The guided-missile destroyer USS Chung-Hoon (DDG 93) undergoes final preparations prior to departure from Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam for an independent deployment to the Indo-Asia-Pacific region. The ship and its crew will conduct integrated operations in conjunction with allies and partners.

things we've been training to do," he said.

"We train for any contin-

gency, so regardless of where we're going to work, the crew is fully trained. No

matter what we're faced with, we'll be ready," Orlich added.

The ship's motto is, "Imua e na Koa Kai," which translates to "Go Forward

Sea Warriors." As part of Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific and Destroyer Squadron 31, Chung-Hoon operates forward, maintaining the highest warfighting readiness to preserve the freedom of vital sea lanes.

Chung-Hoon is a guided-missile destroyer that is a multi-mission, anti-air warfare, anti-submarine warfare and anti-surface warfare surface combatant—an important component of the Navy's rebalancing of assets and forces to the Pacific.

The ship is named in honor of native Hawaiian Rear Adm. Gordon Pai'ea Chung-Hoon, recipient of the Navy Cross and Silver Star in World War II for conspicuous gallantry and extraordinary heroism.

"This deployment is a great opportunity for the men and women of the ship. We've trained hard for the last 18 months, and we're very excited to go out and do the nation's bidding," said USS Chung-Hoon Command Master Chief Christian Detje.

Fed Fire Hawaii takes top awards

Story and photo by
Fire Inspector Angela
Sanders

Federal Fire Department

Federal Fire Department (FFD) Hawaii was named as the 2012 Navy Fire and Emergency Services winner for the Large Fire Department of the Year award in a ceremony March 11.

Glenn DeLaura, Federal Fire Department regional fire chief who retired in December 2012 with 38 years of service, won the award for Navy Fire Chief of the Year for 2012.

"Whenever a leader is given an opportunity to surround themselves with loyal, trustworthy, hardworking individuals from all areas of the workforce, only then will a highly successful team be developed to build a vision that supports the goals and objectives of the Navy," DeLaura said.

"The fire chief's award, although considered a single award, is truly one that I share with the individuals that were part of my team," he said.

During the 2013 Federal



Rear Adm. Frank Ponds, commander of Navy Region Hawaii and Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific, congratulates retired regional fire chief Glenn DeLaura, 2012 Navy Fire Chief of the Year.

Fire Department Joint Firefighter Recruit Academy graduation ceremony March 22, Rear Adm. Frank Ponds, commander of Navy Region Hawaii and Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific, presented Regional Fire Chief Fletcher Dahman and DeLaura with a certificate for recognition of significant achievements. The award honored contributions to the United States Navy Fire and Emergency Services for winning the award for 2012 Large Fire Department of the Year.

"As the fire protection and emergency services provider for all Navy, Air Force, Army, Marine Corps and Coast Guard installations on Oahu, 'Fed Fire' has contributed immeasurably to the safety of more than 185,000 personnel, the naval shipyard, 39 ships and submarines, Hickam airfield with more than 60 aircraft, and over \$53 billion in assets - protecting those who defend America," Ponds said.

The submittal process and

See FED FIRE, A-9

Pinwheel planting marks start of Child Abuse Prevention Month

Story and photo by
Brandon Bosworth

Staff Writer

The Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Military & Family Support Center (MFSC) hosted a special pinwheel planting ceremony April 1 to mark the beginning of Child Abuse Prevention Month.

About 80 children from the Kama'aina Kids program at the neighboring Moanalua Preschool planted pinwheels in front of the center located at 4827 Bougainville Drive.

This is the second year in a row that MFSC has held the pinwheel ceremony, but the first in which children were invited to participate.

"Last year it was mostly military personnel planting the pinwheels," said Tyra Lamb, family advocacy program prevention and education specialist.

"This year we had the great idea of involving the children."

Pinwheels are the new national symbol of the



Keiki from Kama'aina Kids at Moanalua Preschool plant pinwheels along the pathway to the Military & Family Support Center. (Additional photo on page A-5.)

movement to prevent child abuse.

"The old symbol was a blue ribbon with the blue representing bruises" said Dawn Ogden, counseling

and advocacy supervisor.

"Pinwheels are more positive and represent the winds of change."

See PINWHEEL, A-10

Speed limits to change in some areas of Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam

Story and photo by
Brandon Bosworth

Staff Writer

A serious traffic accident earlier this week has led officials at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH) to implement a base-wide speed limit of 25 mph unless otherwise posted.

Previously, certain base streets had posted speed limits of 30 or 35 mph. The speed limit for housing areas remains at 15 mph.

The 25 mph speed limit is now in effect on Pearl Harbor Boulevard and is expected to go into effect on other areas of the base in the near future. More details will be available soon.

The action to lower speed lim-



Old speed limit signs are being removed as Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam plans to institute a base-wide speed limit of 25 mph.

its results from an incident that occurred on the morning of April 2. A Sailor was struck by a vehicle while in the crosswalk in front of the Fleet Store on Pearl Harbor Boulevard.

The victim, who sustained a broken right arm, right leg and lacerations to the right elbow, was transported to Queens Medical Center via ambulance.

The driver of the vehicle was taken to security and cited for causing an accident involving bodily injury, inattention to driving and having no driver's license and subsequently was released to his command.

"It's tragic that this sort of accident happened," said Capt. Jeffrey James, commander of Joint Base Pearl Harbor-

Hickam. "Fortunately there were no life-threatening injuries."

There may be additional actions taken to help increase safety at JBPHH.

"We are taking a hard look at all aspects of pedestrian and traffic safety across the base," said James. "We will be implementing changes immediately to protect service members, their families and civilians."

Both drivers and pedestrians are cautioned to be careful when crossing streets. Pedestrians should always check both lanes to see if vehicles are coming before walking into a crosswalk. Drivers are expected to stop for pedestrian crosswalks when a pedestrian is in the crosswalk or entering the crosswalk.



U.S. Rep. Gabbard inspires attendees at Women's History Month seminar [See page A-2](#)



Emergency preparedness [See pages A-6, A-7](#)



USS Chung-Hoon, USS Reuben James [See page A-10](#)



NIOC repeats as JBPHH basketball champions [See page B-1](#)



Earth Day celebration an opportunity to 'go green' for the environment [See page B-3](#)



Sexual Assault Awareness Month events planned at JBPHH [See page B-7](#)

Air Force deputy undersecretary attends Malaysian exhibition

Pacific Air Forces Public Affairs

Deputy Undersecretary of the Air Force for International Affairs Heidi Grant and military leaders attended the Langkawi International Maritime and Aerospace Exhibition (LIMA) 2013 held March 24 to 28 at Langkawi Island, Malaysia, as part of ongoing efforts to build relationships in the Asia-Pacific region.

Grant said the United States Air Force remains committed to engaging U.S. partners and allies in the Asia-Pacific region and around the world by participating in aerial events such as LIMA-13. The focus of the effort is to promote regional security interests, support friends and allies, and demonstrate U.S. military capabilities and resolve even during times of fiscal constraints.

“Sequestration, as a near-term fiscal challenge, should not be interpreted as a lack of long-term commitment,” said Grant. “Our alliances and partnerships bring with them years of mutual trust and respect, significant interoperability, and information sharing—all of which build multilateral relationships



U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Michelle Lucht

Adm. Cecil Haney (center), commander of U.S. Pacific Fleet; U.S. Air Force Lt. Gen. Salvatore Angelella (right), commander U.S. Forces Japan; and Heidi H. Grant, left, U.S. Deputy Under Secretary of the Air Force for International Affairs; attend the opening ceremony of the 2013 Langkawi International Maritime and Aerospace Exhibition (LIMA 13) held March 26 in Malaysia.

and underpin security and prosperity in the region.”

In 2011, more than 230 delegations from 35 countries attended LIMA-11 along with approximately 33,000 trade visitors and more than 120,000 public visitors. About 75 aircraft and 40 warships and vessels

from the U.S., Malaysia, Australia, Indonesia, China, the Republic of Korea, France, Russia, the United Kingdom, Sweden, Singapore and Thailand also participated in LIMA-11.

After much consideration, Pacific Air Forces’ event planners opted to cancel the

F-16 Fighting Falcon demonstration team’s participation in LIMA-13 due to significantly constrained flying hour programs and support costs. PACAF leadership pursued and received Headquarters Air Force approval permitting the C-17 Globemaster III demonstra-

tion team to attend LIMA to preserve the Air Force’s aerial footprint at the biennial international event.

“PACAF has and will continue to make cuts in supporting theater engagements, we know that,” said Gen. “Hawk” Carlisle, Pacific Air Forces commander. “We

just have to do them smartly, so that we maintain our rebalance and pivot to the Pacific and maintain our capability to do what we need to do in support of our friends and allies.”

PACAF’s support for these events and international commitments are the backbone of the command’s mission to continue these key engagements and build partnership capacity throughout the region. Historically, PACAF supports 20 U.S. Pacific Command exercises and 19 PACAF-sponsored events annually, some of which include humanitarian assistance and disaster relief focused operations. Also, annually, there are approximately five international trade shows or aerospace exhibitions like LIMA.

First organized in 1991, LIMA provides participating countries with a venue for promoting increased understanding and interoperability with the purpose of fostering regional stability and security across the Pacific theater. LIMA is a leading international trade show for aerospace and maritime manufacturers targeting the Asian market in defense, enforcement and commercial sectors.



Department of Defense photo by U.S. Air Force Tech. Sgt. Michael R. Holzworth

Chief Master Sgt. “Les” Bramlett, command chief master sergeant of 15th Wing, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, greets Rep. Tulsi Gabbard prior to the Women’s History Month seminar March 29 at JBPHH. (See additional photo on page A-5)

U.S. Rep. Gabbard inspires attendees at Women’s History Month seminar

MC1 Cynthia Clark

Defense Media Activity — Hawaii News Bureau

U.S. Representative (Hawaii-D.) Tulsi Gabbard was the keynote speaker March 29 at the Women’s History Month seminar at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

The seminar, “Reach Your Highest Potential and Help Others Reach Theirs,” was the final event for Women’s History Month at joint base.

Approximately 100 service men and women, Department of Defense civilians and family members attended the seminar, which was facilitated by Air Force Col. Eva Jenkins commander of 692nd Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Group.

Gabbard stressed how important it is to honor the accomplishments of women who have come before. She also noted the importance of taking those accomplishments and using them as a catalyst to ensure the success of our country.

“Celebrating remarkable women and their accom-

plishments is what this month is really all about,” Gabbard said.

“It’s exciting for us as women in uniform, especially to see the kinds of progresses that are being made, that have allowed us to be where we are, and that are being made this year. The kinds of progress that we’ve seen would not be possible without the tremendous contributions of those who came before us and those who paved the way,” she said.

Jenkins, also a motivational speaker, shared her own recipe for success and how to be the ones who are out there making it happen.

“It’s up to us to change the perceptions,” Jenkins said. “If you want to make a change, you have to go and make that change. It matters — it really does.”

Gabbard, a captain in the Hawaii National Guard, used her experiences to bring home the message that it’s not about what position you are in — you can affect change and you can influence progress.

“It was a message and a lesson that I tried to pass along to my Soldiers every

single day,” Gabbard said.

“It didn’t matter if you were a private or if you were a team leader or a squad leader or a platoon sergeant, we can accomplish the mission best together when each of us takes action on a daily basis within the framework of being a servant leader,” she said.

Other events held at joint base during Women’s History Month included a women’s military leadership panel, computer training and a literary event for children at the Hickam Library.

PACAF command chief visits 15th Wing Airmen



U.S. Air Force photos by Tech. Sgt. Jerome S. Tayborn

Chief Master Sgt. Steve McDonald, Pacific Air Forces command chief, joined by Command Chief Master Sgt. Leslie Bramlett, 15th Wing command chief, addresses 15th Wing Airmen at the Hale Aina dining facility at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam on March 26.



Chief Master Sgt. Steve McDonald, Pacific Air Forces command chief, speaks to service members at an enlisted call in the Memorial Theater at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam on March 26.

Keep informed about sequestration

To keep apprised of updated information about sequestration, please visit http://www.defense.gov/home/features/2013/0213_sequestration/.

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Contact the Ho’okele editor for guidelines and story/photo submission requirements

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HO’OKELE

Burma, Myanmar in her eyes: ‘Freedom From Fear’

Review by Bill Doughty

Navy Region Hawaii Public Affairs

Aung San Suu Kyi is a pivotal figure, philosopher and heroic leader in Burma (now also known as Myanmar) who calls for “a genuine respect for freedom, peace and justice.”

She is the daughter of Aung San, a former leader of the country’s independence movement against British colonialism. Aung San first aligned with the Japanese just prior to WWII until he saw the fascism of Imperial Japan’s military and sided with the Allies. He was assassinated by a rival in 1947 on the eve of the country’s independence but is remem-

bered today as the father of modern Burma.

Aung San’s daughter, an Oxford-educated winner of the 1991 Nobel Peace Prize, continued her father’s push to democratic rule and freedom but was arrested, separated from her family and kept under house arrest for 15 of 21 years between 1989 and 2010. Her selfless commitment, backed by the free world, led to elections and the beginning of a transition from military junta control to civilian government rule. Today, Aung San Suu Kyi chairs Myanmar’s leading opposition party, the National League for Democracy.

Part I, “The Inheritance,” focuses on her early writing, including a biography of her father and review of

literature in the context of religion and politics. The chapter “My Country and People” is a must-read for anyone who wants to understand the ethnic diversity of Burma.

It provides the geography, history and sociology needed to explain the differences of Mon-Khmers, Tibeto-Burmans and Thai-Shans – Chins, Kachins, Krens, Kayahs, Mons, Arakanese (Rakhines) and Shans; how these people were impacted by Indian, Chinese, Portuguese and British culture; and how the country has been influenced by religions such as natural spirit worship, Buddhism, Hinduism, Christianity, Islam and others.

Although she doesn’t mention the immigrant ethnic Rohingya Muslims in her 1991 book, Aung San Suu Kyi recently called ethnic violence between Buddhists and Rohingya Muslims in western and central Burma “a huge international tragedy.”

She restated her desire to promote reconciliation after 200 people were killed and 100,000 were displaced from their homes in 2012.

Aung San Suu Kyi challenges people to rise above their superstitions, prejudices and, most of all, fears.

Part II, “The Struggle,” shows a chronological sequence of the movement toward democracy.

“The quest for democracy in Burma is the struggle of a people to live whole,



Image from navyreads.blogspot.com

“Freedom From Fear” was first published in 1991 and reissued in 1995, edited by Aung San Suu Kyi’s late husband, Dr. Michael Aris. It is presented in three parts.

meaningful lives as free and equal members of the world community. It is part of the unceasing human endeavour to prove that the spirit of man can transcend the flaws of his own nature,” she writes.

Aung San Suu Kyi outlines her vision, objectives and strategy. The book’s namesake chapter, “Freedom from Fear,” calls for courage in the face of oppression:

“It is not power that corrupts but fear. Fear of losing power corrupts those who wield it and fear of the scourge of power corrupts those who are subject to it. Most Burmese are familiar with the four *a-gati*, the four kinds of corruption. *Chanda-gati*, corruption induced by desire, is deviation from the right path in

pursuit of bribes or for the sake of those one loves. *Dosa-gati* is taking the wrong path to spite those against whom one bears ill will, and *moha-gati* is aberration due to ignorance. But perhaps the worst of the four is *bhaya-gati*, for not only does *bhaya*, fear, stifle and slowly destroy all sense of right and wrong, it so often lies at the root of the other three kinds of corruption ... It would be difficult to dispel ignorance unless there is freedom to pursue the truth unfettered by fear.”

In a message that continues to resonate for developing free nations, Aung San Suu Kyi discusses how Germany and Japan became strong democratic states after the Second World War. In the chapter, “The Need for Solidarity Among Ethnic Groups,” she writes, “We must all work together if we are to live together in unity and harmony.”

Part III, “Appreciations,” offers reminiscences, observations and assessments by others.

The 1995 edition, which includes forewords by Václav Havel and Archbishop Desmond Tutu, concludes with “The Spirit of Reconciliation,” Aung San Suu Kyi’s statement in 1995 after nearly six years of detention.

She writes, “I have always believed that the future stability and happiness of our nation depends entirely on the readiness of all parties to work towards

reconciliation.”

In another book, 1996’s “Letters from Burma,” Aung San Suu Kyi waxes philosophically on life in her homeland.

Many of her letter-essays in “Letters from Burma,” which were published in Japan’s *Mainichi Shinbun*, culminate in moral reflections, such as this powerful observation:

“Unity in diversity has to be the principle of those who genuinely wish to build our country into a strong nation that allows a variety of races, languages, beliefs and cultures to flourish in peaceful and happy co-existence. Only a government that tolerates opinions and attitudes different from its own will be able to create an environment where peoples of diverse traditions and aspirations can breathe freely in an atmosphere of mutual understanding and trust,” she writes.

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi has a strong and inspiring voice, in many ways like that of Ayaan Hirsi Ali and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., not only for women and men in her country but for people everywhere.

(Doughty writes the Navy Reads blog <http://navyreads.blogspot.com/> on weekends in support of the Chief of Naval Operations Professional Reading Program and related books. Coming to Navy Reads this weekend: a guest post from Craig Symonds, author of “The Battle of Midway.”)

Diverse Views



“What steps are you taking to prepare for a natural disaster such as a tsunami?”

Maj. Kimberly Boswell-Yarbrough
15th Medical Group



“Since our arrival to Hickam, my husband has put together an emergency kit complete with MREs, nonperishable items, two cases of water and extra blankets. He is a local and knows the importance of being prepared.”



Kathleen Chang
Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam

“I’m doing food storage at my house, making sure I’m stocked up on candles, batteries, blankets and dog food just in case we need to evacuate in an emergency situation.”

Airman 1st Class Christopher Dubois
56th Air and Space Communications Squadron



“I just got here to Hawaii less than a year ago. I haven’t done anything to prepare yet, but I plan on buying an emergency kit and a case of water to store away just in case.”



Shaun Miyata
Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam

“First off I would turn on my radio to make sure I know how far the wave is and how much time we have, make sure I know where my family is, (and that) we have enough food and essentials like batteries and water in case of a blackout.”

Senior Master Sgt. Garrett Kuwada
HQ PACAF



“My family and I have a month’s supply of food and water. We also have propane and a propane camping stove as well as a propane grill to cook with if we lose power, as well as flashlights and spare batteries. We will also be purchasing a generator in the near future. We also have a Red Cross solar-powered radio to get information if necessary.”



Yeoman 2nd Class Eileen Schiff
USPACOM JIOC

“The steps I’m taking is making sure I have water. I have contact information with my family. We have a location to meet and a designated area to go to if there is a natural disaster. We store canned foods and always keep the gas tank greater than half a tank.”

Staff Sgt. Sarah Gaertner
56th Air and Space Communications Squadron



“I have been here for almost two years and sadly, I have no preparation. But it is important to have the basic essentials. It will be definitely something to get going and do now.”



Chief Master Sgt. Wayne Cardwell
HQ PACAF

“I’m retiring and moving to Spokane so I’m no longer preparing for anything here in Hawaii. But I think it’s wise to have 30 days of food and water on hand so we don’t become a liability to our community.

(Provided by David Underwood Jr. and MC2 Nardel Gervacio)

Want to see your command featured in Diverse Views?
Got opinions to share?

Drop us a line at editor@hookelenews.com or karen.spangler@navy.mil

Aftermath of 1960 Chilean tsunami in Hilo



U.S. Navy archive photo

On May 22, 1960, a Mw 9.5 earthquake, the largest earthquake ever instrumentally recorded, occurred in southern Chile. Aftermath of the Chilean tsunami in the Waiakea area of Hilo, Hawaii, 10,000 km from the generating area is shown in this photo. The largest wave in the Hilo area was more than 10 m (33 feet) and was estimated to have traveled at speeds greater than 30 mph. Note the scattered debris, gutted foundation and the parking meters that were bent parallel to the ground by the force of the waves. Hilo was the hardest hit city in the Hawaiian Islands. The tsunami arrived at Hilo about 15 hours after it originated off the coast of south central Chile, 6,600 miles distant.

HO'OKELE

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Individual augmentee receives surprise welcome at airport

Story and photo by
MC2 Nardel Gervacio

Navy Region Hawaii Public
Affairs

HONOLULU – Lt. Salisha Labonte, an individual augmentee assigned to Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific, received a surprise welcome when she returned home from a 10-month deployment April 1.

Dressed in their whites, the entire wardroom greeted Labonte as she arrived home from Afghanistan.

“When we knew Lt. Labonte was returning from her deployment from Afghanistan, we found out her flight information and we decided to greet her,” said Lt. Cmdr. Joe Casale, deputy chief of staff at Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific.

As Labonte’s flight from Phoenix landed, the Sailors approached her



Lt. Salisha Labonte receives a surprise welcome upon her return home to the islands after a 10-month tour in Afghanistan.

as she prepared to collect her baggage. Sailors who serve as IAs throughout the world but also serve as ambassadors for the Navy and gain invaluable joint, coalition and interagency experience. “This was a really nice surprise,” said Labonte, who was overcome

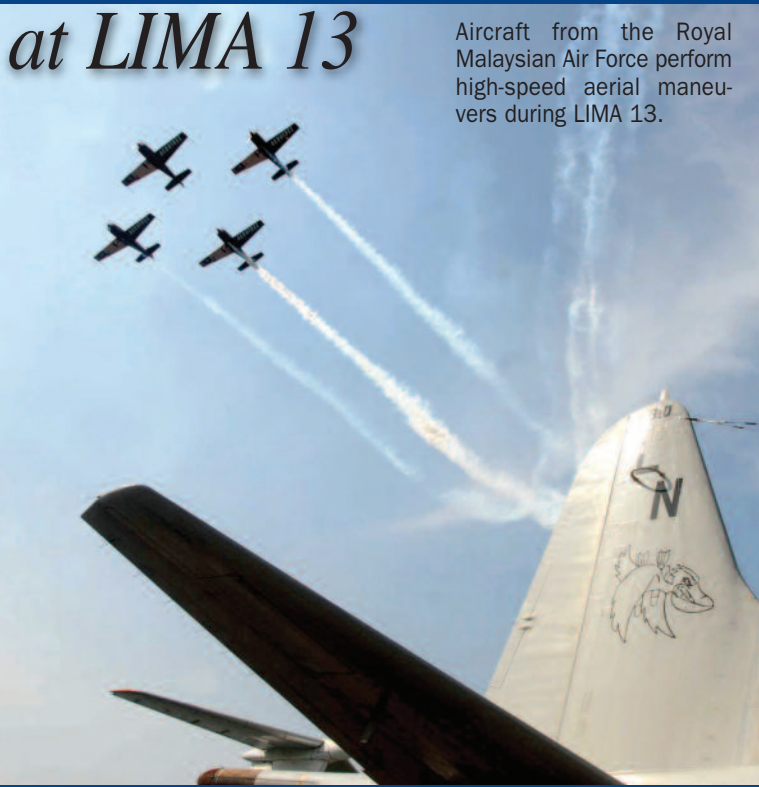
by emotion. “I wasn’t expecting this.” While Labonte’s family was not present for her homecoming to the islands, she called all who were there to greet her “my Navy family.” Onlookers from the flight were puzzled by all the excitement and greetings, but Casale explained to the crowd that she (Labonte) “was in Afghanistan for a year.” That received applause from the other passengers at the baggage claim,” Casale said. IAs are active duty and Reserve Sailors and Marines who serve in diverse capacities and usually in hostile conditions. They make significant impacts in places such as Iraq, Afghanistan, the Horn of Africa and the Republic of the Philippines. They provide commanders with mission-tailored, globally-distributed forces. “I think the applause she got was wonderful,” said Capt. Salvador Aguilera, Navy Region Hawaii and Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific chaplain. “It was wonderful to see the civilian community in the area recognize her great sacrifice and contribution and service to our country by providing some applause for her return.” Labonte served as an administration officer for Joint Special Operations Command in Afghanistan. “It was great seeing her surprise, and I think at one point she became emotional,” said Aguilera. “Maybe she was thinking about her family, but she realized that we are also her (Navy) family, and we are all here to support her.” Since 2001, there have been 110,000 IAs. The Bronze Star has been awarded to 1,416 service members. IAs have been the recipient of one Silver Star and 48 Purple Hearts.

PACAF Airmen showcase mission at LIMA 13



U.S. Navy photos by MC1 Alfredo Rosado

U.S. Air Force pilots of the 535th Airlift Squadron at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam escort 50 children from the Rumah Nur Kasih Langkawi Orphanage onto a C-17 Globemaster III for a tour during the 2013 Langkawi International Maritime and Aerospace Exhibition (LIMA 13) March 28, at Langkawi, Malaysia.



Aircraft from the Royal Malaysian Air Force perform high-speed aerial maneuvers during LIMA 13.

Pearl Harbor-Hickam *Highlights*



Sailors from Construction Battalion Maintenance Unit 303 (CBMU-303) work on a metal structure during the construction of a storage facility at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Sean Furey



U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Diana Quinlan

A Sailor assigned to the guided-missile destroyer USS Chung-Hoon (DDG 93) gives his farewells as the ship prepares to depart Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam for an independent deployment April 2.



The guided-missile destroyer USS Michael Murphy (DDG 112) returns to the ship's homeport of Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. The ship returned from an underway period in the Hawaiian operating area. The destroyer is named after Lt. (SEAL) Michael P. Murphy, the first person to be posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor for actions in Afghanistan, and the first member of the U.S. Navy to receive the award since the Vietnam War.

U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Diana Quinlan



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Nardel Cervacio

U.S. Pacific Fleet Master Chief (SW/AW) John Minyard, along with Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Command Master Chief (SW) Brian Ortega (left) and Navy Region Hawaii Command Master Chief (SW/AW) Marc F. Sibal, celebrate the 120th birthday of the chief petty officer rank with a cake-cutting ceremony at the Silver Dolphin Bistro Galley. Authorized by Congress, the U.S. Navy established the grade on April 1, 1893.



Department of Defense photo by U.S. Air Force Tech. Sgt. Michael R. Holzworth

U.S. Representative Tulsi Gabbard, speaks at the Women's History Month seminar March 29 at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. (See related story and additional photo on page A-2.)



Children from Kama'aina Kids at Moanalua Preschool planted pinwheels in front of the Military & Family Support Center on April 1 to mark the beginning of Child Abuse Prevention Month.

U.S. Navy photo by Brandon Bosworth



Government and military leaders promote tsunami awareness

Gov. Abercrombie declares April 2013 as Tsunami Awareness Month

Story and photos by Staff Sgt. Michael Meares

Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Public Affairs

HONOLULU – Hawaii Gov. Neil Abercrombie issued a proclamation naming April 2013 Tsunami Awareness Month at the State Capitol on April 1.

The Hawaii State Civil Defense, mayor of the City and County of Honolulu, Department of Emergency Management, National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration's National Weather Service, and representatives from Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam and other Department of Defense agencies joined the governor. The proclamation emphasizes the importance of tsunami awareness and preparedness for residents and visitors in Hawaii.

According to the Pacific Disaster Center, tsunamis have accounted for more lost lives in Hawaii than any other type of local disasters. In the 20th century, an estimated 221 people have been killed by tsunamis, most of which occurred on the Big Island in 1946 and 1960. April 1, 2013 marks the 67th anniversary of the Hilo tsunami, one of the deadliest waves to strike the islands.

"It's a rather sobering experience today," Abercrombie said. "It was a little over two years ago that I had my first formal confrontation with the responsibilities associated with deal-



Navy Capt. Jeffrey James, commander of Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, unfurls one of four banners to mark the Tsunami Awareness Month proclamation made by Hawaii Gov. Neil Abercrombie during an event April 1 at the State Capitol building.

ing with the possibility of a major tsunami hitting the islands of Hawaii."

On March 11, 2011, an 8.9-magnitude earthquake off the coast near Natori, Miyagi, Japan generated a tsunami felt across the Pacific. The largest quake on Japanese record shook buildings across Tokyo and unleashed a seven-meter-high tsunami that killed hundreds as it engulfed towns on the northern Japanese coast. More than 20 countries around the Pacific Rim were put on alert to brace for a potential tsunami. Abercrombie said he remembers the anxiety of preparing and waiting for the wave to hit.

"Instead of it being almost momentary, as Japan experienced, we had a considerable amount of time to think about and to go over what it

was we are prepared to do," Abercrombie said. "And to examine postscript, post tsunami, what it is we might do to be better prepared, if we needed to be."

Improving the tsunami alert system is key to Hawaii being able to respond prepared to natural disasters. Lessons learned since the surprise tsunami of 1946 led to the creation of the alert system used today. While the governor was speaking, right on cue, the monthly tsunami alarm started blaring across the state to signal the monthly test which is held the first working day of the month at 11:45 a.m.

Where to find JBPHH emergency alerts

Updates are available on JBPHH Facebook website, www.cnic.navy.mil/pearlharbor-hickam, Joint Base Television (Oceanic Ch. 2), and the JBPHH Straight Talk Line at 808-421-4000.

"I'm very, very pleased to say that I have really complete confidence in the capacity of the various agencies, individuals and groups that have responsibility with regard to a tsunami, both with the point of view of the warning and the point of view of awareness," he said.

"[I'm] Very, very proud and happy that we've been able to work in a cooperative

and collaborative way across government agencies, non-profits, police agencies, federal, state and local entities to come up with the plan that we have and to make sure the public knows that we are prepared," Abercrombie said.

"Part of the reason for having 'Tsunami Awareness Month' is we don't want to get complacent that we will never have a tsunami of that

magnitude."

Tsunamis are a series of waves varying in height. Abercrombie warned people to take higher ground instead of testing the strength of a tsunami by refusing to evacuate coastal areas.

"How do we save lives," said Dr. Gerald Fryer, senior geophysics at NOAA's Pacific Tsunami Warning Center. "The tsunami warning system has improved, and it gets better every day. We have learned a lot. The number of unnecessary warnings is really going down. So when we issue a warning, it's for real."

Capt. Jeffrey James, commander of Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, agreed that it is important for people to be prepared to deal with an impending tsunami and be prepared to evacuate to higher ground.

"You have to heed the warning," James said. "The science behind a warning is pretty solid. We're prepared. We are a tsunami-ready base, the first base in Hawaii to become tsunami-ready, which means we have a plan. We've looked at it very closely, and very critically, are in close communications with city and state civil defense, as well as higher headquarters in the military."

The agencies at the proclamation event urged the people of Hawaii to take immediate action in the event of a tsunami warning and follow the alerts on media, radio, television or social media outlets.

Joint base takes ‘walk to safety’ to promote tsunami awareness

Story and photo by
David D. Underwood Jr.

The Joint Base Emergency Management Office sponsored a one-mile “walk to safety” April 1 in concert with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), State Civil Defense, the American Red Cross and the City and County of Honolulu. The event was held in conjunction with the monthly “all hazard” outdoor siren tests.

Participants gathered at Aloha Aina Park at joint base and walked down Signer Street to the softball fields near the Hickam Fitness Center. The walk demonstrated that people don’t necessarily have to drive to escape a tsunami threat, but can walk a mile inland in less than 30 minutes to be safe from disaster.

With the potential threat of a tsunami and hurricane season coming soon, Capt Douglas Holderman, chief staff officer at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam stressed the importance of being prepared.

“Preparedness for either one is essentially the same thing,” he said. “It’s thinking about the basics you’d need to take with you to get out of the disaster zone for a short period of time. It’s all about pre-



Capt. Douglas Holderman, chief staff officer at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, walks with other participants in the Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Department of Emergency Management one-mile “Walk to Safety” on April 1.

paredness and thinking about what you want the outcome to be.”

According to the 2013 tsunami awareness talking points, when people know what to do in advance, they can react the right way. It is advised that they listen to the radio, watch TV and use social media to stay informed.

The guidance recommends having a family plan and practicing it. Residents should have a kit prepared with at least a three-day supply of food, water and essential items.

Derrick Vaughn from the American Red Cross advised that those who have pets should include them in their family plan and should be aware that some shelters will not take in pets.

Because traffic can create gridlock, it is important for people to realize that they can quickly walk to a safe place, according to Daniel DuBois, joint base emergency management officer.

“The message is it is not necessary to have to drive. You can easily walk to safety, especially if down in Waikiki,” said DuBois.

“When the sirens go off, it can create gridlock, and they should know that they can walk to safety and not have to consider driving,” he said.

Emergency management officials noted that tsunami awareness is especially a concern to the joint base. It is important to keep the people and assets safe and ready to carry out the mission. The military has provided support and assistance after the tsunami in Indonesia in 2004 and Japan in 2011.

The tsunami “walk to safety” event marked the 67th anniversary of the April 1, 1946 Aleutian Tsunami. An earthquake with a magnitude of 7.4 occurred in the early morning in an area of the Aleutian Trench about 90 miles south of Unimak Island.

This produced a large Pacific-wide tectonic tsunami that reached Hawaii five hours later. Wave heights across the islands reached as high as 55 feet, 36 feet and 33 feet on Hawaii, Oahu and Maui, respectively. The tsunami inundated some areas up to a half a mile inland and claimed the lives of 159 people.

For more information on preparing for disasters, visit FEMA’s Ready.GOV website, the American Red Cross website, and Navy and Air Force “Ready” websites at www.ready.navy.mil and <http://www.beready.af.mil/disasters&emergencies/>

Tsunami-ready families learn, plan, build for emergencies

Commander, Navy
Installations Command
Public Affairs

WASHINGTON (NNS) – For many, spring brings a resurgence of energy and activity with the milder temperatures.

It is a perfect time to practice your family emergency plan and to re-evaluate and restock your emergency supply kit for the changing season. It is important to remember that weather and other hazards can be unpredictable. So spring into action as a Ready Navy family and be ready for any hazard.

Be and stay informed

Learn about hazards that are common in spring months and most likely to happen in your area. The Ready Navy website “be and stay informed” tabs



U.S. Navy photo by Chief MC Monique K. Hilley

An emergency kit is an effective way to prepare for unexpected events. Having the entire family prepare the kit will help children better cope with emergencies and ensures everyone knows the emergency kit contents.

offer specific instructions, information and resources you may need to know regarding floods, tornadoes, man-made hazards

Make a plan

As a family, make and refine your emergency plan so that everyone in the family understands what to do, where to go, and what to take in the event of any emergency. Practice your plan by conducting a drill where all family members must gather at your designated meeting place, exiting by various doors.

Your emergency plan should also include how your family will communicate with each other, particularly if normal communication methods, such as phone lines or cell towers, are out. Road conditions and other hazards can limit ease of movement. Have a contact person outside the area who each member of the family can notify that they are safe, if the family is separated.

Place a call to your designated contact person to be sure he or she is willing to serve in that role. The Ready Navy website provides printable forms and contact cards to guide you in your planning.

Build a kit

The best way to prepare for the unexpected is to have on hand one or more emergency kits that include enough water and non-perishable supplies for every family member to survive at least three days. Keep a kit prepared at home, and consider having kits in your car, at work and a portable version in your home ready to take with you.

These kits will enable you and your family to respond to any emergency more effectively. Make a game of kit building with your children. One idea is

to have your children go on a scavenger hunt to find and gather necessary supplies around your house. Make note of items you are missing, and shop together at your local installation commissary and NEX to complete your kit. History shows that children who are involved and informed with emergency planning are better able to react safely in an emergency.

For information about Ready Navy and tips, forms, and guidance to be prepared for and stay informed about all hazards, visit www.ready.navy.mil. Ready Navy is a CNIC-sponsored emergency preparedness program.

For more information about Air Force emergency preparedness, visit <http://www.beready.af.mil/disasters&emergencies/>.

Chaplains in Hawaii reach out to Sailors, Airmen with counseling and services

Karen S. Spangler

Managing Editor

With commitment, teamwork and perhaps a “little help from above,” Chaplain Capt. Sal Aguilera, Navy Region Hawaii and Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific chaplain, and his chaplaincy staff reach out to Sailors and Airmen in Hawaii.

Service members, Department of Defense (DoD) civilians, and military families realize the far-reaching benefits of the chaplains’ efforts. This may be in the form of the services offered at the chapels, coordination and outreach into the community, other chapel services such as vacation Bible school and CREDO, or counseling that is available on a 24/7 basis.

All of the chaplains, including Aguilera, advise their commanders on command religious program (CRP) matters relating to manpower, personnel, professional development, and facility requirements. They develop the CRP to meet identified religious ministry requirements and manage all religious activities in the command.

“The chaplain staff also provides religious ministry according to the manner and form of the chaplain’s faith tradition, effectively facilitate religious ministry requirements, care for all, and advise those served,” said Aguilera.

“Other responsibilities include preparing and executing budgets of appropriated funds to support the CRP. Chaplains supervise CRP personnel and support their professional development and appropriate opportunities for competitive collateral duties, and

they provide or facilitate religious ministry support for command functions such as changes of command, retirements, promotions, and memorial ceremonies or services,” he explained.

Overseeing all of the Navy and joint base installation and chapels and chaplains in Hawaii would appear to be a hard job, but Aguilera steers a steady course. His focal point is always on teamwork and on the holistic approach.

“Chaplains, starting with myself, know that we are working on a holistic approach. We aren’t lone rangers. We work closely with Military and Family Support Center, our suicide prevention coordinator and mental health agencies within the military community as well as consult with chief petty officers in the development, evaluation and mentoring of religious military personnel,” Aguilera explained.

In addition to the chaplains at each chapel, the chaplain community on base includes those who are assigned to the MIDPAC cruisers at joint base and those who serve all of the ships on the waterfront that are under Destroyer Squadron 31.

Aguilera said that chaplains are on duty 24/7 and are on the waterfront although not all ships have chaplains. “There may not be one (chaplain) directly on a ship, but there is a chaplain assigned to every ship,” he said.

He said that the chaplains on the ships provide their after-duty telephone number to the ship’s chief petty officer, commanding officer or executive officer. If there is an emergency, the chaplains can quickly be contacted.



U.S. Navy photo by Brandon Bosworth
Capt. Sal Aguilera (right) confers with fellow chaplains Lt. Jeff Moore (USS Chosin CG 65) and Lt. Cmdr. Brad Moore (USS Port Royal CG 73) at Pearl Harbor Memorial Chapel.

The duty chaplain serves as a backup to the ships’ chaplains. Submarine chaplains are also included in the pool of coverage.

The team concept comes into play again as the region and joint base chaplains work closely with chaplains assigned to the submarine community as well as chaplains from other branches of the military services.

“We help each other and work as a team. We have got it covered,” Aguilera said.

The outreach of the chaplaincy includes hospital visits to Navy personnel and officiating at funerals at National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (Punchbowl) and Hawaii Veterans Cemetery for veterans who are eligible.

They work closely with the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery (BUMED) for burials at sea. For example, the chaplains might help with burial services at the USS

Utah or USS Arizona.

Throughout the year, the chapel staff provides a variety of programs for active duty and their families. For example, the Navy’s chaplains hosted the Easter sunrise service March 31 on the Battleship Missouri Memorial.

Aguilera ensures that a military rabbi is available to meet the needs of the Jewish community for High Holy Days. And the Jewish Chapel at joint base covers the religious community for other branches of service—Army, Coast Guard, Marine and Air Force—as well as Navy. “We don’t just serve our own. We serve the needs of all who ask for help,” Aguilera said.

Vacation Bible school will be held in June at Pearl Harbor Memorial Chapel. The chapels also provide religious education for children.

Aguilera also works closely with Adm. Frank

Ponds, commander of Navy Region Hawaii and Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific. “My job is to advise the admiral on issues of morals, ethics and religious matters,” he said.

He helps the admiral with outreach and coordinating with all of the key religious leaders on Oahu.

“Adm. Ponds is extremely supportive and very progressive about making sure we are reaching out to as many people as possible, supporting our military and civilian counterparts,” he continued.

According to Aguilera, the Navy chaplains’ Chaplain’s Religious Enrichment Development Operation (CREDO) program has been completely revamped. “It will be a whole different approach and looking out for and caring for our people. We were in desperate need of programs that are fresh and innovative and will help our

military and their families,” he said.

And one of the most important roles of the chaplains is involved with counseling.

“All of the chaplains provide counseling on alcohol, marriage, family problems, etc. We take a holistic approach and on many occasions refer people to MFSC [Military and Family Support Center] and other agencies,” Aguilera said.

Although it can sometimes be difficult for a service member or family member to take the step to confide in a chaplain, they are assured that whatever they share will be kept in confidence. “The Chaplain Corps saw the importance of chaplains having complete confidentiality. Every Navy chaplain is bound by total and absolute confidentiality,” explained the chaplain.

“One of our roles is to be advocates, to help those who don’t have power or the means. If they don’t have a mom and dad or best friend to confide in, they can come to us,” Aguilera said.

“Once they know they have somebody who will truly listen to them, they realize they have support. They have an advocate,” he shared.

The responsibilities of a chaplain can be extremely time-consuming and intense. But it truly is a labor of love for Aguilera. “I love doing this. I love the people in the military. We’re really here for them,” Aguilera said.

“Our chaplains love our people. That’s why we do this.”

(Editor’s note: Please watch future issues of Ho’okele for additional articles about the services provided by the Navy Region Hawaii and Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam chaplains.)

PACAF chief wins gold, breaks records in powerlifting

Master Sgt. Peter Borys

Pacific Air Forces Public Affairs

Chief Master Sergeant Troy Saunders, the Pacific Air Forces vehicle management functional manager at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, is one individual who carries a lot of weight in Pacific Air Forces—literally.

Saunders recently competed at the 2013 Raw International Powerlifting Championships in Columbus, Ohio and coached the Air Force Powerlifting Team at the 2013 Military National Powerlifting Championships in Orlando, Fla., where he dominated the competition at both events.

At the Ohio event, the 44 year-old team captain won a first place gold medal in the 205-pound master class and tied for the third place bronze medal in the open 205-pound class with a 534-pound squat, 352-pound bench press and a 622-pound deadlift.

“This was by far one of the most challenging competitions I have competed in, with athletes coming from 15 different countries,” said Saunders.

During the military



U.S. Air Force photo

Chief Master Sgt. Troy Saunders performs a squat during the 2013 Raw International Powerlifting Championships at Columbus, Ohio. Saunders is the Pacific Air Forces vehicle management functional manager at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

event, Saunders was able to squat 540 pounds, bench press 348 pounds and deadlift 639 pounds, which won him 16 gold medals in many of the 220 pound classes. The Air Force team also garnered the second place team trophy.

“It was an exceptional day for the Air Force team, and it was an honor to coach my fellow Airmen to be their best,” Saunders said. “Each is an exceptional athlete and an example to all of what

dedication and hard work can realize.”

Saunders captured gold medals in many classes including the overall best lifter categories with lifters who outweighed him by more than 80 pounds.

“As a big believer in personal fitness myself, I believe the chief serves as a great role model for all of us,” said Col. Herbert Phillips, PACAF Logistics Readiness division chief.

“He takes a very balanced

approach to fitness, pushes himself to achieve, and is always willing to share his wealth of knowledge in exercise and nutrition with his fellow Airmen.”

Saunders’ motivation to be an athlete started at the age of eight. He claims that the 1976 Olympics and Arnold Schwarzenegger’s bodybuilding achievements were a great influence and said he began lifting at the age of 12.

He won his first competi-

tion in 1989 as a bodybuilder at the Luke Air Force Base Invitational, Arizona, and his first major lifting competition in 1999 at the Montana State Powerlifting Championships.

Saunders has competed in 59 bodybuilding and 40 powerlifting competitions as well as being the 2004, 2008 and 2010 United States Air Forces Europe Athlete of the Year and 2011 Air Mobility Command Athlete of the Year.

“Great mentoring and natural talent are big parts of the recipe. However, hard work and dedication are without a doubt the biggest indicators of a true champion,” Saunders said.

Saunders stressed that invariably age is a factor. “Years of pushing a body to its limit will leave a mature athlete with injuries and joints that are not as willing to do the same work without significantly more effort. But if you are willing to put in the effort and train smart, anyone at my or any age can still be a big challenger at any competitive level,” he explained.

At this point in his lifting career, Saunders holds all the American Military Raw Lifting Records for the

squat, bench press and deadlift in the 198- and 220-pound classes. He also holds two American Raw Masters Deadlift Records in the 198- and 220-pound classes and will be pushing to exceed his own personal records.

“Turning 45 this year will make me eligible to set records in another masters age category, and I hope to continue to do the same when I am 50 and beyond,” Saunders said.

With nearly 26 years in the Air Force, Saunders shared his formula for success.

“Mentors are priceless,” he said. “Also, dream big and never underestimate willpower and desire. It is what keeps you going and moving forward. Once you reach a goal, there is no better way to motivate yourself then setting the next challenge to pursue.”

He said he would never be able to compete or perform at his best without the support of his peers, co-workers and leadership.

“His actions speak much louder than just words when you look at his incredible accomplishments and success in the recent competitions,” Phillips said. “It’s great to have him on our staff.”

Fed Fire personnel protect those who serve America

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guidelines for the various nominations are addressed in the OPNAVINST 11320.23G. This process is conducted annually by all Navy fire and emergency service fire departments.

The award categories identified are: Navy Fire Department of the Year (small, medium and large category), Fire Prevention Program of the Year, Military and Civilian Firefighter of the Year, Military and Civilian Fire Officer of the Year, Fire Service Instructor of the Year, EMS

Provider of the Year, and Individual or Group Firefighter Acts of Heroism.

Once the nominations are submitted, the award package goes through an evaluation process. Packages are evaluated against the criteria, scored and ranked by the awards panel.

The Navy Fire and Emergency Services Fire Chief of the Year is selected by the awards panel from the department level awards winner. Nominations are not accepted for this award.

Once the winners are announced,

each award winner is issued and awarded a recognition coin, award plaque and certificate. The Navy winners then compete for the Department of Defense award for their category. This competition is against Army, Air Force, Coast Guard, Marine Corps and Defense logistics Agency award winners.

In 2007, the Federal Fire Department won the same award for Large Fire Department of the Year and DeLaura won Navy Fire Chief of the Year. In the same year, the Federal Fire Department Hawaii also received the award for

Fire Prevention Program of the Year.

“As a team, ‘Fed Fire’ accomplished a great deal in FY12,” Ponds said, citing more than 6,000 emergency responses, 24 significant event responses, three major aircraft responses and 134 mutual aid responses.

“Additionally, you directed multi-agency, multi-day wildfire responses protecting Department of Defense property, weapons magazines, civilian homes and property, and state forest preserved land,” Ponds said.

Noting the team’s hundreds of fire

drills and nearly two-dozen mass-casualty and disaster response exercises, Ponds said, “Finally, your continued focus, dedication and collaboration with other federal, state and county agencies toward prevention and preparation has been unparalleled and vital to our continued success. Congratulations again and keep pressing forward,” Ponds added.

For more information about the Federal Fire Department, contact Fire Inspector Angela Sanders at 471-3303, ext. 617 or email angela.sanders1@navy.mil.

USS Reuben James Sailors honor fallen

Story and photo by
Ensign Travis Dickerson

USS Reuben James (FFG 57) Public Affairs

Sailors from USS Reuben James (FFG 57) participated in a cleanup at the American Cemetery during a recent visit to Manila, Philippines.

The project included beautifying the grounds and cleaning the headstones at the cemetery, the resting place for 17,201 Soldiers, Sailors and Marines who died in various engagements throughout the Pacific.

Founded in 1960, the cemetery spans more than 152 acres and has multiple memorials to fallen service members, including a missing man wall which lists the names of the 36,286 men missing in action in the Pacific.

“Having lived in Hawaii for so many years, this



USS Reuben James Sailors participate in a cleanup of American Cemetery in Manila, Philippines.

experience was both humbling and invaluable, shedding light on a completely different aspect of the war in the Pacific,” said Chief Sonar Technician (Surface)

Chad Robinson.

“It was great to give back in whatever way we could, to those who gave so much for our freedoms,” said Interior Communications Electrician

2nd Class Christopher White.

The American Cemetery is open to the public. For more information, visit www.abmc.gov.

Chung-Hoon Sailors participate in ‘fun run’ at Alvah A. Scott Elementary

USS Chung-Hoon
(DDG 93) Public Affairs

AIEA, Hawaii – It was aloha Friday for the students of Alvah A. Scott Elementary School for their annual fun run field day March 8 as volunteers from USS Chung-Hoon (DDG 93) took part in the festivities and acted as safety observers for the students.

Nine Sailors from Chung-Hoon, including the commanding officer, as well as a number of parents and other military volunteers, were on hand for the run. The event consisted of four activity stations and included students from all grades at Alvah Scott Elementary.

Activities included



Chung-Hoon Sailors help with fun run at Alvah A. Scott Elementary.

jumping rope, running, dancing and an obstacle-course relay.

“The younger kids needed a little more instruction, but for the older students we could kind of sit back and let them be competitive,” said Hull Technician 3rd Class Adam Covens.

“And of course everybody loved the dance station.”

Indeed, students and supervisors of all ages were caught singing along to the music.

“This was just an opportunity for the kids to get out and exercise in a fun setting,” noted Gas Turbine Systems Technician 3rd Class Amanda Jacobs noted.

“I think everyone had a great time. I definitely had a great time,” she said.

2013 Air Force Community Assessment Survey launched

The 2013 Air Force Community Assessment Survey has been launched. This survey is a tool for senior leaders in determining the strengths and needs of Air Force communities and community action planning at the installation, major command and Air Force levels.

The survey provides the Integrated Delivery Systems and Community Action Information Boards with a means to ensure that community interventions are timely, focused and data-driven.

Participation in the survey can be done by locating the survey link in the email sent to your Air Force account, then answering the online survey by visiting the web address provided. The survey takes about 30 minutes to complete.

Participation is anonymous. Responses will assist Air Force leaders and ser-

vice providers in their efforts to improve the community.

The Community Assessment is the only Air Force-wide survey that includes spouses and tailors feedback for community or installation improvements.

Previous surveys have resulted in new parks, job opportunities for spouses, increased support networks such as the Adopted Family Program, INTRO program, Singles Network Group), and new classes such as New Dads.

The Air Force has contracted the research company Ipsos to conduct this survey and it has been designed so that no aspect of responses can be linked to personal identifiable information.

For assistance in taking the survey, call the survey support helpline at 1-866-342-3357 or email afcasurvey@ipsosresearch.com.

Pinwheel planting stirs positive winds of change

Continued from A-1

Lamb concurred. “Pinwheels make you happy,” she said. “The ribbons represented pain.”

The pinwheel ceremony was thought to be more effective than a standard proclamation marking the start of Child Abuse Prevention Month.

“Planting pinwheels takes the place of a formal proclamation,” said Michelle Dewberry, victim advocate. “It’s more hands-on so the kids can be involved.”

Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam was not the only military installation on Oahu holding a pinwheel planting ceremony on April 1. All branches of the armed services held similar ceremonies throughout the island. On April 7, there will be a pinwheel event at the Hawaii State Capitol from 2 to 4 p.m.

Another pinwheel planting ceremony is planned for 11 a.m. April 10 at the Center Drive Child Development Center at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. Rear Adm. Frank Ponds, commander of Navy Region Hawaii and Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific, will attend the ceremony.

Next year, MFSC hopes to include students from neighboring Pearl Harbor Elementary School in the pinwheel event.